

00862.002722



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Masayuki YAMADA, et al.

Application No.: 09/262,852

Filed: March 5, 1999

For: SPEECH SYNTHESIS APPARATUS
FOR STORING AND MANAGING
DATA FILES, CONTROL METHOD
THEREFOR, AND COMPUTER-
READABLE MEMORY

Examiner: Michael N. Opsasnick

Group Art Unit: 2655

March 15, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each of the listed documents is also enclosed.

A Japanese Office Action (dated December 15, 2003) from a related Japanese application, which cites the four foreign documents, is enclosed for the Examiner's convenient reference.

English abstracts (two versions each) for JPA 6-232762, JPA 8-160991, and JPA 8-263090 are included herewith as concise statements of the relevance of these documents. (Also, U.S. Patent No. 5,864,812 is a corresponding English-language document for JPA '991.)

Applicants would like to note that, although JPA '762 is listed in the Prior Art Search made by the Japanese Examiner, it does not constitute the ground for rejection.

Applicants submit the following remarks regarding the present invention vis-a-vis JPA 59-68793.

According to the invention, respective pitch marks can be managed by using the distances between adjacent pitch marks in each voiced portion of speech data, and all of the pitch marks in each voiced portion need not be managed. Therefore, the size of a pitch mark data file for each voiced portion can be reduced. According to the invention, a concept of utilization of the distance between pitch data for recording a position of actual pitch marks in a voiced portion is based on the strong correlation between adjacent pitch marks in a voiced portion.

JPA '793 discloses a speech synthesis technique using pitch data. The document contains the concept of a distance between pitch data. However, JPA '793 does not teach or suggest the idea that the distance between pitch data can be utilized for recording a position of actual pitch marks in a voiced portion, based on the strong correlation between adjacent pitch marks in a voiced portion. Instead, it teaches utilizing a distance between pitch data for generating interpolation pitch data between pitch data. Thus, the object of JPA '793 is to generate interpolation pitch data, rather than to record actual pitch data.

Further, the process for calculating a distance between pitch data according to JPA '793 is different from that of the invention. Whereas according to the invention, a distance between adjacent inter-pitch-mark distances is calculated, JPA '793 teaches calculating a distance between pitch data on the basis of pitch data in both sides of interpolation pitch data.

Therefore, Applicants submit that even if JPA '793 may contain the concept of a distance between pitch data, the object and process taught by the document are very different from those of the invention, and JPA '793 does not achieve managing respective pitch marks by using the distances between adjacent pitch marks in each voiced portion of speech data so that all of the pitch marks in each voiced portion need not be managed.

FORMAL MATTERS

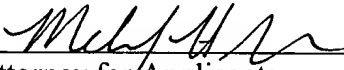
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since a first Official Action after the filing of a request for continued examination has not yet been issued, neither a statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) nor payment of a fee is believed to be required. Regardless, the documents being cited were first cited in the Japanese Office Action not more than three months before the filing date of this paper. Furthermore, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned, indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in Washington, D.C. by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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